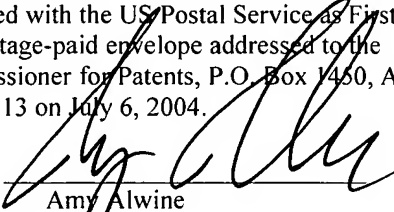


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

<p>In re application of:</p> <p>BASOL et al.</p> <p>Serial No.: 10/017,494</p> <p>Filed: December 7, 2001</p> <p>Title: Planarity Detection Methods and Apparatus for Electrochemical Mechanical Processing Systems</p>	<p>Group Art Unit: 1763</p> <p>Examiner: Culbert, Roberts P.</p> <p>Docket: 042496/0277563</p> <p>NT-229-US</p> <p>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING</p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US Postal Service as First Class Mail in a postage-paid envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on July 6, 2004.</p> <p>Signed:  Amy Alwine</p>
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office action mailed April 6, 2004 with a shortened statutory period for response no later than July 6, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.